

Report by the UPA-fighter Skovoroda.

MY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE  
UKRAINIAN PEOPLE IN THE YEARS 1944-49.

1./ I joined<sup>ed</sup> the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in spring 1944. That happened in the Sokal-Hrubeshiw region. In that region I remained as UPA-member till June 15, 1946. On that day I was transferred to Pidlassia and assigned to the fighting group of Commander Ostap.

On June 30, 46 we arrived in Pidlassia, which is my native region. There our fighting group remained till December 10, 1947. On that day the UPA-detachment under first lieutenant Priirva received the order to carry out an armed raid to East-Prussia. I was assigned to that detachment.

We left East-Prussia on March 21, 1948 and arrived in Pidlassia on May 13, 1948. There I remained till August 25, and on that day I started the armed raid to the West. On September 9, 1948 I was with my group in the vicinity of Krakau, but I had to go back and on October 12, 1948 I arrived in the mountains of Svienty Krzyz (middle Poland).

On April 14, 1949 the UPA-fighter Zenko started his raid to the West - to the US-zone of Germany - and I with my group began the march to the West on May 10, 1949.

On July 19, 1949 I crossed the Czech-Bavarian border line.  
2./ At the time of spreading of UPA fights to the Kholm region (Eastward and Southward of Lublin) in winter 1943/44, I worked with the Ukrainian cooperative organization and helped what was in my power the particular UPA\* detachments.

In spring 1944 I was transferred to a village-cooperative and there I met the UPA\* detachment under Halayda. The UPA fights at that

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time and in that region not only against the German occupation, she was forced also to defend the Ukrainian population against ~~the~~ encroachments of Polish terrorists. Halayda made preparations at that time for annihilation of one of such Polish terror groups in Ostriw near Belz, I received arms from the UPA and took part in this military action. Ever since I was all the time without interruption in the ranks of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

After the assault on Ostriw I received the order from the Okruha-administration to hold information lectures in the neighboring Ukrainian villages. Thereafter I was called to a educational course for political educators. That course was organized by the Okruha-propagandist Hucul with the agreement of the Okruha-UPA-commander Otamanych. Lecturers at this course were: Otamanych - military training, Hucul - economics, Yaroslav - political propaganda, further Amon and Bir.

After graduating from that course I was assigned to one UPA battalion as the political educator. Because of the illness I could not resume the position. After my convalescence I remained with the underground administration as propagandist. My task was to hold political lectures in villages. My boss was the Rayon-propagandist Yaroslav.

After the German-Soviet front rolled over our territory I lost the contact to my boss Yaroslav. At that time I was installed by the Rayon Administration chairman as the underground Village leader (kushchevy), in Cebliw. Thereafter I was commanded for training purposes to fighting detachments in Dowzniw-Vynnyky. The training was organized by the underground Okruha administration. Commander of these training courses was Metodyi.

(Note:- It becomes absolutely necessary herewith, to explain the structure of the administration of the Ukrainian underground.

The lowest administrative unit is a village with a kushcheyy (village leader) at the head. Several villages make up a Rayon with the underground Rayon administration, then comes Povit. Many Povits make up an Okruha. Oblast comprises many Okruhas and 3-4 Oblasts are called Kray. E.g. Odessa oblast and Bessarabia make the South-West Land (Kray). The four Galician Oblasts make the Western Land, Volynia Oblasts Zhytomir, Rivne, Lutsk and Polissia the North-West Land, also. The Ukrainian territories in Poland, westward of the so called Curzon Line make the Western Frontier Land (Zakhidni Okrainy). At the head of each Land stands the underground Land administration. This civilian Oblast and Land division corresponds to the military division of the UPA: Land = UPA- Main group (e.g. UPA-South, UPA-West, UPA-North, UPA-West-frontier. ~~Okruha~~ Oblast = Vovchynska Okruha and further to the battalion, company also.)

After the graduation from the training course for the fighting groups I was appointed to the position of the political educator with WOP

in the Rayon No 1. In that position I remained till fall 1945. By order of the Okruha administration I was assigned to the group of movable propagandists and as such I had the task to hold lectures in the villages. My boss was the Okruha Propagandist Dunayevskyy.

On June 16, 1946 I was ordered by first lieutenant Prirva to Pidlassia and had the task to train the fighting groups and fighting cadres. Later I took the position of a political propagandist and at the end of my stay in Pidlassia I was the radio operator with TO.

My bosses at that time were Chub, and later Stefko. During the raid to East Prussia I was the political educator of the UPA raid

detachment as assistant to Commander Priirva.

3./ I took part in the following combat actions of the UPA:

in the annihilation of the terrorist-group in Ostriw,

in the assault on the town of Hrubeshiw,

in the assault on the town of Krystynopil and

in the fight against a detachment of Polish security police near Kentrzyn in East - Prussia.

I am informed about the following combat actions of the UPA: the heroic defence of the villages Madzarky and Boratyn against the Bolshevik-Polish MO (People's Milicia).

Further I am informed about the burning down of villages Dowzniw and Pyvowshchyna by the Polish military units. Also the cruel forced deportation of the Ukrainian population from the Sokal and Kholm regions to the Soviet Union in 1946 and a similar resettlement of the Ukrainians from Pidlassia to East-Prussia in 1947. Beside I know about numerous terror acts and cruelties committed by the Polish authorities during these resettlement activities.

I am informed about the heroic deed of Hrab and Oleh, who attacked by a Polish military detachment in Pidlassia, fought the Poles half a day and then withdrew successfully.

There were also cases of treason as with Yurchenko and Nakonechnyy, and the deserter Basyko in the Hrubeshiw area or Chumak in Pidlassia. Viun, the former cooperator of the underground security service, arrested by the Bolsheviks, was later released to do spying work.

The Soviet Border Service in Krystynopil ~~xxx~~ made great efforts to build up a spy network among the Ukrainian population. That action, however, ended without any results.

4./ The situation in the Kholm area. The Russification policy in that

area till 1915 and later the Polonization policy in the years 1919-1939 gave only surface results, because as soon as the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) began there the action - and it was, as already mentioned, in winter 1943/44 - the national consci<sup>ss</sup>ence of that segment of the Ukrainian people was slitly to recognize again. I new that area from the time before the second world war and I was surprised of the fighting will of the Ukrainian population there. During the combat actions of the UPA in that area the Ukrainians proved in the same national consciousness as all other Ukrainian areas.

The greatest influence upon the spontaneous development of the national consciousness had the ~~xxx~~ common danger of the whole population from the attacks of the Polish imperilist underground, which wanted to continue the Polonization of that territory. As the Polish Underground turned in the first place against the Ukrainian population and not against the German occupants, the common foe of the Ukrainian and Polish peoples, the best sons of the Kholm area of Volynia and Galicia rushed to that area to fight in the ranks of the Kholm UPA detachments and to defend the Ukrainian peaceful population against the Polish terror.

The Polish partisan movement burned down whole Ukrainian villages in the Kholm area and annihilated en mass the Ukrainian population. That called out at first a panic among the Ukrainian population and they fled to the woods or to more secure areas in Galicia. The climax reached the Polish terror in winter 1943/44. At that time already came into existence the first UPA detachments and OUN-groups which took the Ukrainian population under their protection and opposed the terror gangs. Obviously these first Ukrainian fighting groups have not been strong enough ~~xxx~~ to carry out entirely their task and to strick back the stronger in number Polish detachments. In early spring 1944 the Poles were able to enter great successes:

they occupied the whole area to the Bug river in the North, to the village Dolobychiw, in the South to the village Kostiaszyn, Lisky, Vasyliw, Olhivok and Richycia. These successes in territories were reached in heavy fights with Ukrainian detachments and the Poles had ~~xxx~~ heavy losses. Without new reserves the Poles were not able to continue their assault.

The defence of the Ukrainian population against the Polish terror by UPA united the Population around the UPA and the Ukrainian liberation movement. The UPA defenders raised the defense will of the Ukrainians and the Ukrainian peasants joined the ranks of UPA and sent their sons to UPA-detachments.

After the Polish assault has been stopped, new UPA\*detachments have been organized and trained so that at Easter time the UPA was ready and started the counter-attack. Near the village Possadiw the Polish front was broken and the Poles were thrown across the Huchva-river.

These ~~war~~ between two peoples developed behind the German front instead of a common struggle against the Germans and instead of making common preparations against the Bolsheviks. The responsibility for such development must be carried exclusively by the Polish underground, which gave the order for annihilation of the Ukrainian population in the Kholm area, to the underground detachments.

These defence - struggle won the UPA Army great respect and authority in the Ukrainian population of the Kholm - area. Particular detachments and their commanders have been highly praised.

As soon as a UPA detachment entered a village a solemn holidaylike mood appeared. ~~The~~ Farmers invited soldiers to their houses nobody remained without shelter. Every UPA soldier was always welcomed.

The heroic deeds and boldness of UPA soldiers and commanders were discussed not only by adults but by children as well. Mothers sent

their sons and wives their husbands to UPA ranks without tears.

The mood and behavior of the population had its positive influence upon the fighting mood of the soldiers.

These conditions lasted till summer 1944, the time of ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ shifting the German - Soviet front west of the Kholm land.

With the arrival of the Red Army the feeling of the population was very insecure, because of not knowing how to behave in the new situation. The stand toward UPA, however, did not change at all. After a short period of time the Kholm area was included into the Polish state. For a long time nobody saw the Polish administration and also the Soviets did not appear from ~~XXXX~~ the Eastern side of the Bug-river. The incorporation into the Polish state was regarded by the population as ~~xxx~~ a negative factor because they wanted to stay with other Ukrainians under one administration. From the Polish government the Ukrainian population did not await any good.

At that time a UPA -bataillon was organized in ~~XXXXXX~~ my region. This bataillon was assigned to go for training to Volynia. Crossing the Bug-river the bataillon was attacked and defeated by the Soviets. UPA suffered heavy losses. That of course had repercussions among the population.

The combat successes of UPA detachment Under commander Yahoda, however, raised the mood of the population, and the UPA units were supported by all possible means. That applies to Sokal and Hrubeshiw areas.

In spring 1945 began in rayons Hrubeshiw, Kholm, Zamostia, Tomashiw, and Bilhoray a resettlement action of Ukrainians to the Soviet Ukrainian Republic. A part of the population which has been terrorized by the Poles and was afraid of new Polish terror agreed to be resettled. Only the population of several villages in Hrubeshiw area, where UPA was in unrestricted control of the terrain, remained.

Also the population of the region to the Huchva-river oppsed the resettlement because that terrain stood under the protection of UPA, and remained there till the end of UPA fights in that area ~~in middle~~ ~~of~~ , midsummer 1947.

In spring 1945 the UPA fightings started again. The foe's terror stopped. The detachment under commander Yahoda destroyed the terrorist nest in Variaz and liquidated the spying organization of Yurchenko . The whole spying ring fell into the hands of UPA and the enemy was not able to build up such a ring again. The Ukrainians took over again the whole administration of the area; a free spot of a free Ukraine has been created. That lasted till spring 1946, when a new resettlement action began.

In that period of time no enemy activities were to be recorded so that people who came from other regions to the Cholm area confirmed that that area was the most quiet and the most happy area in the Ukraine. The civilian administration of the Ukrainian liberation movement acted as the state authority and it was as such by the population.

In that period of time an agreement has been reached with the Polish resistance army (WIN) (Wolnosc i Niepodleglosc\* Freedom and Independence) and was welcomed by the Ukrainian population. The Ukrainian population knew that no danger from the Polish side is threatening. For a long time, however, the population mistrusted the agreement.

In spring 1946 threw the Warsaw government strong units of the Polish Army (WP) to the Cholm land , supported by NKVD units with their HQ in Hrubeshiw. The Ukrainian population was robbed and terrorized by both of them. The population fled to the woods , to abandoned farms , which have been left by settlers to the Soviet Ukraine, or wanders to the West to the Polish <sup>ethnographic</sup> ~~ethnic~~ territories. Again the resettlement action began , comprising only the area between Krysty-



nopil and Olhivok and Belz. Fresh strong military units were thrown to the Kholm land. UPA started a counterattack and attacked the town Hrubeshiw with NKVD garrison. Cruel scenes everywhere in that area have been recorded and till the end of the resettlement ~~xx~~ action 75% of the Ukrainian population were removed from that area.

During that resettlement action the UPA group to which belonged Skovoroda obtained the order to march to Pidllassia.

5./ The situation in Pidllassia. The UPA struggle in Pidllassia had another character in Pidllassia than in the areas located south. UPA units came to Pidllassia only in summertime and for the winter they moved out to the south. There was, however, a widespread underground net. The population of that area with friendliness welcomed the UPA units and supported them whatever in their power. They were very well informed about the situation in the Soviet Union, knew about the struggle of UPA for a Ukrainian independent state and for that reason they supported UPA units in Pidllassia. Also in that area a friendship agreement was signed between UPA and WIN, the Polish underground, and since that time all encroachments of the Polish underground against the Ukrainian population stopped. UPA won very soon all sympathy of the whole population, the Polish as well, because it combatted with success the various Bolshevik terror institutions.

In general, however, the Pidllassia area stood not on the high level of the Hrubeshiw area, which was entirely controlled by UPA, but also in Pidllassia there were so called UPA - villages, where UPA units had quarters for months.

In summer 1946 appeared the first agent-provocateur Chumak in Pidllassia, who knew many quarters, hiding places and contact lines of UPA. At the same time strong units of the Polish Army (WP) were thrown to Pidllassia to comb up the woods and villages. Chumak's activity as well as razzias and terror frightened the population.

The widespread stretches of forrests gave UPA the opportunity for maneuvering and to strengthen the fighting activities. The mood of the soldiers rose from day to day and that influenced also the population. In fall the Polish army left the area and quietness reigned again till the resettlement action in spring 1947. This first strength probation had good influence upon the soldiers as well as on the population and they were even more active in the future struggle.

During the resettlement to East - Prussia in June 1947 the enemy threw again strong military units to Pidlattia and the population was so terrorized that they saw no possibility to evade the resettlement. They went, however, in the belief of coming back soon. It is to stress that there was no case of treason.

I know Pidlattia very well ever since and I may state that the Ukrainian population ~~which~~ of that area which was not entirely national conscious, became the active and conscious part of the Ukrainian people through the participation in the struggle of the UPA. Such national consciousness of the population we met 6 months later in East Prussia.

6./ The moral of the Poles. The Polish population is positively minded toward the Polish underground movement. The Polish stand toward the Ukrainians ~~was~~ varied in different periods. The first period: The Ukrainian - Polish underground war which excited a great enmity toward the Ukrainians in the frontier lands. After the reaching of agreement of mutual understanding between the Ukrainian and the Polish Undergrounds and after the common ~~actions~~ military operations against the common foe - the Bolsheviks - the stand of the Poles against the Ukrainian liberation movement changed basically, it became positive and friendly. In many cases, however, it is not yet entirely good.

In many cases the enthusiasm for the extent and the strength

of the Ukrainian underground prevailed among the Poles. The stand of the Ukrainians toward the ~~enemy~~ enemy, their perseverance and the heroism of the Ukrainian insurgents always found recognition with the Poles. Often one could hear: " Were the Polish underground so well organized all would look better."...

During the German occupation the Polish underground was very strong. It was weakened only by the fact that every Polish political party possessed resistance units of its own. Among them were some communist military groups and often they fought each other, mainly the communists and the NSZ (Narodowe Siły Zbrojne). The national underground was weakened also by the fact that the social program was not progressive enough to mobilize the power of the Polish people en masse. Some times there were cases of lack of discipline.

After the German-Soviet front rolled over the Polish national territory, the Polish underground movement remained at first without action and waited; avoiding an open struggle with the Bolsheviks and discharging their cadres into the villages. After the end of the war in Europe the Polish underground became very active again and its existence was noticeable everywhere. This activity was to influence the Polish elections and to draw the attention on the situation in Poland from abroad. At that time the support by the West was expected in Poland. After the Polish communists frauded the election results and the West did not even think to intervene for that reason, the mood of the Polish masses sank considerably, and that mood was transferred upon the underground. That fact has been utilized very cleverly, pronouncing the " general amnesty for the underground". Many underground workers turned back to the "normal" civil life.

After the amnesty has been carried out the activity of the Polish underground rose once again, as one could notice in the neighboring areas of Pidlissia, but never again was it as strong as

between the Ukrainians and Poles  
In Pidlassia came into being a friendly cooperation in 1945,  
in 1946 this cooperation cooled up, and in 1947 ,after proclaiming  
of "Amnesty" the Polish assaults on the peaceful Ukrainian population  
grew rapidly. The Ukrainian underground administration protested  
frequently to the leadership of the Polish underground , these pro-  
tests remaned in most cases without any results.

b There is nobody in Poland at the present time who is not aware that Poland already at the present time is the 17th Soviet Republic.

Mikolaychuk and his Peasants party was just after the Polish underground, ~~which was considered first in popularity~~ very popular with the Polish masses. The oppression of the Peasants party, the forced "unity" of the socialist party with the communist party, in one "United Polish Workers Party" strengthened the hatred to the regime. By the way the "unity" has been carried out only in the top

party positions . The party masses of the socialists , particularly the workers , do not want to know anything of this "unity" and hate the party leaders in the provinces.

The collectivization of agriculture which began strengthened only the hostile attitude of the Polish peasants. Since May 1949 mass imprisonments among the opposition elements are being carried out in Poland. Now the Polish population is convinced entirely that in communist Poland can be no legal opposition. The small parties which are leading their starving life beside the communist "United Polish Workers Party", are no parties , they are only labels which have to prove that there is no one party system in Poland. The officially existing Peasants party (PSL), which had to "unite" with the communist Peasants Party (SL), has still some influence in the villages and the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) among the workers. The population, however, is convinced that the legal parties cannot achieve anything. They look with hope upon the underground and upon the democratic abroad.

7./ The time from fall 1947 till arrival in Germany.

The raid of UPA unit under first lieutenant Priirva to East-Prussia began on December 10 , 1947. A detailed report about that raid has been published in the Ukrainian DP paper "Ukrainian Tribune" - Munich, No 18-25, April~~xx~~ 3, - May 29, 1949, therefore I shall report only about the time , when I operated in East-Prussia separately from Lieutenant Priirva.

We parted at the beginning of January 1948. With soldiers Skala and Berkut we went to visit my family deported to East-Prussia. We agreed upon a place with a deported family with Lt. Priirva to exchange informations about our march. This peasant family, however, was arrested in the meantime by the Polish - communist police, and we could not join the Priirva's unit ever since,

On March 21 , 1948 we began ~~xxx~~ for the third time our march back to Pidlassia. We marched in no hurry. As soon as we reached the old Polish territory South of East - Prussia, we were informed by the peasants that our unit marched already through. In that region operated at that time a strong Polish underground group, which sought contact with us, as one peasant informed us. As in that region strong Polish security police detachments operated, we avoided to seek that contact. Few days before our arrival the Polish underground shot the Polish village mayor of the village Kurpia Mala, region Pisz, because he denounced two Polish underground soldiers to the police and the police caught one of them, who was ill. The second one killed the commander of the police detachment, which ransacked the village , and fled to the woods.

as we were to cross the river Narew

In the vicinity of the town of Novogrod, fell in our hands the lieutenant of the Polish forest guards and we disarmed him .  
operates  
He told us that in that region a very strong Polish underground group .

The region near the town Dorohichyn was controlled by very strong Polish police patrols (UBP), seeking the Polish underground unit under Jaskolka. The peasants told us that Jaskolka's unit ~~xxxxxx-xxxx~~ offered the military and security police troops several battles. Jaskolka's unit operated at that time in the Sieklce, Sokolow, Biels Podlasky area. All ferry -men on the Bug river have been arrested by the security police and accused of ~~xxxxxx~~ supporting the partisan units in crossing the river.

Mid May 1948 we came back to Pidlassia. In the "Planta" forest we found one UPA unit which operated here the whole winter 1947/48. There we received the order from the UPA -sector commander to go in a raid to West ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~. Thorough preparations have been made for that raid inasmuch as strong Polish military and security police units have been thrown to Pidlassia to comb the terrain after Ukrainian insurgents.

End of August 1948 we marched off. ~~The~~ group under my command had 8 ~~men with~~ including myself.

a.) March to Krakow. Our rout went North of Lublin to the West . North of the city of Pulawy we crossed the Vistula in a raft. On the third day of our march we had an incident with Polish Milizia soldiers: one of them was wounded the rest fled. The wounded was a lieutenant. We disarmed him and after a trial we let him go.

We marched in the direction of Swiety Krzysz and in one village near the town Ladow we were very welcomed by the Polish peasants, because they noticed immediately that we belong to the underground. The peasants collected food among themselves for us and one of them proposed us terrain maps. We took quarters in the reservation park of zeromsko and remained there for several days. With us were also two armed Poles who were sought by the security police. Both wanted to fight their way to a Polish resistance unit. The terrain maps could not been bought for us, however.

by  
We passed the towns Chmielnik, Pierzchnica, Miechow, Ojcow, until we reached Vistula west of Krakow. Farther South-west in the vicinity of Biala - Bielsk, there were at that time - the first days of September- maneuvers of the Polish Army and it was very difficult to to pass that terrain. For a march through Silesia it much to late a season, because winter might have surprise us on the way. West of Krakow operated a Polish resistance group under Msciciel (avenger), which caused much trouble to the Polish security police. Many small scale fights took place there.

The maneuvers gave the security police a good opportunity to comb up the woods in search for partisans. We could not find out whether this maneuvers were not only a camouflage for that action. We decided , therefore to turn back and to spend the winter in ~~Midpol~~ Midpoland in the mountains of Swiety Krzysz.

We arrived in the region of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Logow and told the peasants who we new already, that we found contact to our HQ and we intend to spend the winter there. From the peasants we learned that in that region there were no resistance groups in operation. That area seemd to secure. All peasants sympathized with the Polish resistance ~~whix~~ which had great authority among the population. The peasants assured us they will organize a whole company if it is needed and if we gave them such an order. The winter season is not favorable for such action.

In woods protected by minefields we built a bunker and spend the winter there. Peasants supplied us with food, or we brought food from them ourselves. Three times we were compelled to make requisitions in state owned cooperatives (Spoldzielnia). In spring two of our peasant friends have been arrested by the security police, two others had to flee and joined the Polish underground. Therefore we changed our place not to let the security police to come on our tracks. In spring we made preparations for our march toward West.

b.) Some details about the Polish underground. During our raid we learned about the following Polish resistance groups:

As already mentioned in the region of Siedlce, Sokolow, Bielsk Podlaski, Wegrow - on the border line of wojewodstwo Warsaw, Bialystok, and Lublin - <sup>operated</sup> the resistance group under Jaskolka (Swallow). In May 1948 police action against this group was taking place. In the vicinity of the villages Rachyny and Lipiny in the north of the town Drohichyn, there was a great battle in the first days of May where the security police suffered heavy losses.

Southward of this partisan region - in the regions of Wlodawa, Biala, Radzyn and Lukow - was a resistance group under Jastrzab (Hawk). This group had a strength of a company, but at the time of the offensive many small groups joined Jastrzab and the group grew to the strength of a battalion. After completion of their tasks the battalion discharged



many of its members and remained in the strength of a company. Tillr spring 1947 the Jastrzab unit was very active: four times trains were blown up in the vicinity of Parczew, the town Wlodawa was raided and occupied by the partisans and all prisoners, among them many Ukrainians were released. On the road Lublin-Wlodawa Jastrzab disarmed four trucks with Polish troops and captured 6 officers and 9 non commissioned officers, who were later left free. All of them were later courtmarchalled and executed for theyx went into captivity without fight. ~~xxx~~ Further he attacked three trucks with troops ~~xxxx~~ in Kolin. In a battle near Uhnyn \*Parczew the security police lost 16 killed. Then he annihilated the Milizia Posts in Sobibor, Sosnowica, Kodenci, Wisznice, and Wola Wereszczynska. After the proclamation of "Amnesty" in 1947 ~~xxxxxx~~ he restricted his activities but remained active.

In the region of Czestochova \*Radomsko where the wojewodstwo Poznan, Lodz and Kielce ~~xxxx~~ meet are active the resistance groups under Zapora and Murat. It is difficult for me to report details about the activity of these groups because I have not been active in that area. The population told us about numerous battles between those two groups and the security police and military troops. In winter 1948/49 Murat was captured by UBP and in March 1949 he was shot publicly in Lodz. ~~xxxx~~ Zapora's group ~~fightxx~~ continues to fight.

Westward from Krakow operates, as already mentioned, the partisan group under Msciciel, who was reported shot by the Polish-communist <sup>false</sup> papers in winter 1948/49. In contrary to this report Msciciel ~~makex~~ continues to make trouble to the security police.

The Polish communist press reports from time to time about the underground ~~xxxxxxx~~ though the reports are distorted. Often this press brings obituaries of officers and non-commissioned officers of the security police (KBP) as "killed in ~~xxxxxxx~~ struggle against the reaction! Very frequently the organ of the communist Polish United Workers Party

(PZPR) brings short and large reports of trials of the Polish underground workers. Often names of Polish catholic priests are mentioned, who are accused to belong to the Polish underground.

Arm stockpiles are being discovered and that causes heavy fights between the underground and the police. Also radio~~xx~~ equipment discovered by the police causes arrests en mass.

In winter 1948/49 a great part of police from all Poland were ~~xx~~ gathered to the wojewodstwo Warsaw, Pylstok and partially to wojewodstwo Lublin and Lodz for mass razzias in search of Polish underground. In March 1949 a great battle between the Polish underground and the police took place near Staszow mwojewodstwo Kielce, after the underground annihilated many ~~xx~~ police posts. Till then nothing has been known about the Polish underground in that area.

Shortly before our march to the West -end of April and beginning of May 1949 -mass arrests have been carried out in all Poland. The Polish underground suffered only slight losses, because the police terror is pointed exclusively against the civilian population and the underground workers ~~xxx~~ who know how to maneuver, were able to escape.

c.) The second march to the West. On April 14 1949 the group under Zenko left the Swity Krzyz mountains on the way to the West. On May 10 I followed him with three men. Till Czestochova we had land maps and we had no difficulties to continue our march. Further we possessed only simple orientation maps.

The Polish population was no more as friendly and did not want to give or sell us food. We had to make requisitions. On one occasion the security police was called and it came to shootings. We reached the woods and escaped the pursuit. On the same day we had again shooting with forrest guards, who required passports. As they reached for pistols we answered with fire. One guard threw a handgrande and

we could not pursue them.

Between the town of Erzeg (Prieg) and the city of Oppeln (Opole) we crossed the Oder river in a boat and went in direction to Glatz (Kladno). The population -who were mostly the new settlers, from Galicia<sup>Poles</sup> and Volynia was friendly and did not ask where from we are and where we go. The hatred of these new settlers is directed mainly against the Russian Bolsheviks and the Soviet Russian NKVD, because any of the resettled Polish families lost some body from their beloved in Siberia or concentration camps.

Passing Glatz we reached the Adler mountains on the Silesian-Czech border, which is the frontier between Poland and Czechoslovakia.

At night 13/14 of June we crossed the border line under heavy terrain conditions and a road sign in Czech language taught us that we are no more in Poland.

The Czech population of that region is very poor, and all food stuffs are rationed. We avoided great, rich villages obeying strong security measures. Our way goes in South-West direction. The Elbe river we had on our left side.

We passed by Solnice and Tynistela eastward of Pardubice, farther eastward of Chrudim and crossed the river Chrudimka. Through the woods near Golcuv Jenkov, Zdraslavice to the river Sazava which we crossed near Kacov. Farther in South-West direction we passed by Domasin, Bystrice, Janovice to the vicinity of Sedlcany. There we intended to cross the Moldau river. (VLTAVA).

In one village near Sedlcany we exchanged fire with police and one of my comrades soldier Strila was killed. We escaped the pursuit going into the woods. Shortly after to that village arrived three police cars and one ambulance which took the killed. The incident took place on July 6, 1949.

We went in Southern direction. The whole night all roads were guar-

ded by police with cars.

We crosse Moldau ina boat after looking for it for several days. We passed by Mirovice, Planice, Klatovy and spend the night ~~in~~ Southward from Janovice 6 kilometers from the Bavarian-Czech border line. The frontier we crossed at night ~~xx~~ 18/19 of July.

In Neugogen we delivered our weapons voluntarily and theragter we were broght to the US -Military Government in CHAM.

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